

Press Release

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National SBIR Program and Conference Target \$700 Million in Funding for High Tech Firms

The National Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Conference will be held in Houston, Texas, April 26-28, 1994. The 11 agency program has an estimated \$700 million for FY 1994 and offers a significant opportunity for small high tech firms to participate in Federal R&D. The SBIR program is designed to stimulate technological innovation among small private-sector businesses, while providing the government new, cost-effective, technical and scientific solutions to challenging problems. At the same time these SBIR programs encourage small businesses to market the SBIR technology in the private sector which, in turn, helps stimulate the U.S. economy.

Eleven federal agencies, including the Departments of Defense, Energy, Agriculture, Education, Commerce, Health and Human Services and Transportation, as well as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, are required to set aside a portion of their research and development budget exclusively for SBIR contracts. Each year these agencies identify various R & D topics for pursuit by small businesses under the SBIR program.

In addition to covering this year's R & D topics, the April conference will include such topics as accelerating the commercializing of R & D, starting and financing the small high tech firm, joint ventures, venture capital, strategic alliances, proposal preparation, and business plans, patents and licensing. The

conference will also include a session on the new Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR), which offers new opportunities for small firms to submit joint proposals with a university, national laboratory or non-profit research organization in a similar program to SBIR. In addition, all SBIR program managers and over 80 government representatives will be available for one-on-one with conference attendees. There will also be approximately 20 large company representatives attending that are interested in collaborating with other SBIR firms.

The registration fee for the 2 1/2 day meeting is \$125 per person for early registration before April 12, 1994. After that date, registration is \$140. For further information, call the conference hotline at (407) 791-0720 or the Courtney Johnson-Woods at the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (501) 324-9006.

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